permitted to plant such fruit trees as would fit in with the overall scheme of afforestation, such as aonla, Imli, mango, mahua etc, as well as shrubs, legumes and grasses which would meet local needs, help soil and water conservation, and enrich the degraded soils/land. Even indigenous medicinal plants may be grown according to the requirements and preference of beneficiaries.

(xii) Cutting of trees should not be permitted before they are ripe for harvesing. The forest department also should not cut the trees on the forest land being protected by the village communities except in the manner prescribed in the Working Scheme. In case of emergency needs, the village communities should be taken into confidence.

(xiii) The benefit of people's participation should go to the village communities and not to commercial or other interests which may try to derive benefit in their names. The selection of beneficiaries should therefore, be done from only those families which are willing to participate through their personal efforts.

(xiv) The Forest Department should closely supervise the works. If the beneficiaries and/or the Voluntary Agency/ NGO fail or neglect to protect the area from grazing, encroachment or do not perform the operations prescribed in the Working Scheme in a satisfactory manner, the usufructory benefits should be withdrawn without paying compensation to anyone for any work that might have been done prior to it. Suitable provisions in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for this purpose should be incorporated.

Qualifying Service for Seeking Voluntary Retirement

1536. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several State Governments have issued Notifications amending the rules to enable Government servants to seek voluntary retirement after putting in 15 years of service as against the present qualifying service of 20 years;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to make amendments in the similar manner?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) State Governments have their own rules and regulations to govern the service conditions of their own employees. The details of voluntary retirement schemes of the various State Governments are not available. However, a proposal to reduce the period of qualifying service for seeking voluntary retirement by the Central Government employees is separately under consideration.

Surplus Capacity in Ordnance Factories

1537. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of ordnance factories in the country are having surplus capacity;

(b) if so, what is the details break-up per unit, per item of such surplus capacity; and

(c) what steps are being taken to utilise this spare capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Capacity utilisation in the Ordnance factories in terms of available standard man-hours, was 100.09 per cent in 1989-90. However, as far as utilisation of machine-wise installed capacity is concerned, capacity in certain areas is surplus to the production requirements.

(b) The utilisation of machine capacity undergoes fluctuations based on requirement of the Services. It is not in the